

P. O. Box 371
Talkeetna, AK 99676

June 22, 2000

Local Boundary Commission Staff
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1790
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

To Whom It May Concern:

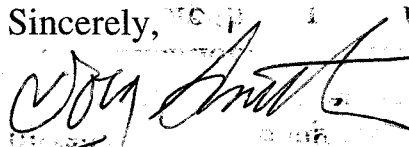
This letter is in support of the Petition for Incorporation of the City of Talkeetna as amended.

I support the incorporation proposal because I am convinced that it is imperative that a local government be established in Talkeetna. Our town is facing rapid growth and change. The Mat-Su Borough government in Palmer is not the proper entity to be charged with addressing the issues that arise in our town. It is crucial that residents be given a voice in decisions made about issues as they arise and this is very difficult when decisions are being made 80 miles away. Both the distance and time lag are a problem. So is the fact that the Borough government has a huge area to oversee and is not able to give Talkeetna issues adequate or timely attention. While the Talkeetna Community Council does its best to bring issues before the community, the council is often informed too late for local concerns to be considered before decisions are made in Palmer. The advisory status of the council is no longer adequate and the town and its people need the local authority of the proposed City of Talkeetna.

It is a shame that this proposal for incorporation has been delayed; the need to incorporate was strong in 1998 and many interim issues that should have been addressed by a local government were not. Still, the proposed amendments have strengthened the proposal.

Please do all you can to assist us in our efforts to incorporate the City of Talkeetna. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Doug Smith